

AMENDMENT

Serial Number: 10/532,704

Filing Date: May 2, 2006

Title: Fluid-Assisted Electrosurgical Scissors and Methods

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

19. (Currently Amended) A fluid-assisted electrosurgical scissors to treat tissue, the scissors comprising:

an end effector comprising a first blade member and a second blade member, the first blade member and the second blade member pivotally connected and arranged to cut tissue;

at least one of the first blade member and the second blade member electrically coupled to an electrical connector connectable to a radio frequency power source;

the first blade member comprising a first blade member distal portion, the second blade member comprising a second blade member distal portion and at least one of the distal portions further comprises a bulbous portion protruding from the blade;

a fluid passage in fluid communication with at least one fluid outlet; and

the at least one fluid outlet positioned to expel a fluid to the end effector and obstructed from contact with tissue by at least one of the blade members.

20. (Currently Amended) The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 ~~further comprising:~~
are monopolar electrosurgical scissors.

21. (Currently Amended) The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 ~~further comprising:~~
are laparoscopic electrosurgical scissors.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein:
the first blade member comprises a first blade member exterior surface;

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the second blade member comprises a second blade member exterior surface; and
at least one of the first blade member exterior surface and the second blade member exterior surface at least partially comprises an electrically insulative material.

24. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein:
the first blade member comprises a first blade member shearing surface;
the second blade member comprises a second blade member shearing surface; and
the first blade member shearing surface and the second blade member shearing surface face one another when the first blade member and the second blade member are in a closed position.

25. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 further comprising:
an elongated shaft;
a lumen located within the shaft; and
the lumen providing a portion of the fluid passage.

26. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 further comprising:
an elongated shaft; and
the at least one fluid outlet is located within the shaft.

27. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 further comprising:
a push rod;
a lumen located within the push rod; and
the lumen providing a portion of the fluid passage.

28. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein:
the fluid passage passes through a connector member which couples the blade members to a push rod.

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29. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein:
the at least one fluid outlet is provided by a connector member which couples the blade members and a push rod.
30. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein:
at least one of the blade members is curved.
31. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical scissors of claim 1 wherein:
the first blade member comprises a first blade member exterior surface;
the second blade member comprises a second blade member exterior surface; and
at least one of the exterior surfaces is configured to slide along tissue while the exterior surface is coupled adjacent the tissue with a fluid expelled from the fluid outlet and radio frequency power is provided to the tissue from the scissors.
32. (Previously Presented) The electrosurgical scissors of claim 31 wherein:
at least one of the exterior surfaces is further configured such that the fluid expelled from the fluid outlet forms a localized fluid coupling between a surface of the tissue and the exterior surface when the exterior surface is located adjacent the surface of the tissue.
33. (Withdrawn) A surgical method for treating tissue comprising:
providing tissue comprising a tissue surface and at least one blood vessel;
providing radio frequency power and a fluid to an electrosurgical scissors, the electrosurgical scissors to provide the radio frequency power and the fluid to a tissue treatment site and comprising a first blade member, a second blade member and at least one fluid outlet;
providing the fluid from the at least one fluid outlet of the electrosurgical scissors;
forming a fluid coupling with the fluid from the at least one fluid outlet of the electrosurgical scissors which couples at least one of the blade members and the tissue surface;
providing the radio frequency power from the electrosurgical scissors to the tissue;

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moving the at least one blade member coupled with the fluid to the tissue surface along the tissue surface; and

heating the tissue with the radio frequency power from the electrosurgical scissors sufficiently to shrink the at least one blood vessel.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 wherein:
the tissue further comprises collagen; and
the step of heating the tissue with the radio frequency power further comprises heating the tissue with the radio frequency power sufficiently to shrink the collagen.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 further comprising:
cutting the tissue with the electrosurgical scissors.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 further comprising:
dissecting the tissue with the electrosurgical scissors.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 further comprising:
placing the first blade member and the second blade member in the tissue while the blade members are in a closed position; and
opening the blade members while the blade members are in the tissue.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 further comprising:
at least partially occluding the at least one blood vessel.